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Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Cooperation Texas, a local non-profit dedicated to the development and support of worker-owned businesses, to respectfully ask Council to grant Wheatsville Food Co-op a permit to sell beer and wine at their new 4001 South Lamar location.

Since 1976, Wheatsville has been a mainstay of Austin's independent business culture. With over 12,000 invested owners, the co-op offers a unique business model anchored in the local economy and committed to sustainability. Over the years, Wheatsville has played an integral role in supporting the development of a robust sustainable foods community in Austin, offering quality, organic produce from local farmers and educating its customers on the importance of local foods.

Wheatsville has an established reputation for its deep commitment to the local community. At Cooperation Texas, we have experienced Wheatsville's generosity firsthand. The co-op has opened its doors to our organization, providing meeting space, tabling opportunities to share our work with the Wheatsville community, and gift certificates to support our programming.

At its current location, Wheatsville has consistently demonstrated that it is a responsible beer and wine vendor. Despite its proximity to the UT campus, with many underage students in the surrounding neighborhood, the co-op has never sold to an underage customer and has a zero tolerance policy for underage drinking.

Given the co-op's long-standing dedication to the local economy and community, along with its commitment to sustainability and history of upholding TABC laws, I would encourage Council to grant Wheatsville a permit to sell beer and wine at their new location on South Lamar.

Sincerely,

Carlos Pérez de Alejo
Executive Director, Cooperation Texas